

HUL 256 Critical Thinking

Minor 1

1hr

Max marks 15

- 1) In *Matrix*, Morpheus says to Neo in the construct:

How do you define "real"? If you're talking about what you can feel, what you can smell, what you can taste and see, then "real" is simply electrical signals interpreted by your brain...

In *Meditations*, Descartes says: *Yet I had often heard from people whose arm or leg had been amputated, that they still occasionally seemed to feel pain in the part of the body they were missing; and therefore even in myself it did not seem to be wholly certain that one of my limbs was hurting, even though I was feeling pain in it.*

What would be Descartes response to Morpheus' statement? Justify your answer.
(5)

- 2) Here is a possible objection against Descartes :

Descartes' reasoning is circular, in that he knows that an all-good God exists because he has a clear and distinct idea of him, and he can trust such clear and distinct ideas because an all-good God would not deceive him regarding them.
Do you think criticism is justified? Why? (5)

Answer any one of the following:

- 3) "Am I dreaming while I am writing this minor 1 in HUL 253? Do you think that this is a meaningful question? Why? (You must consider at least one serious argument which says that this question is meaningless. You may defend or refute that argument.) (5)
- 4) "Descartes thinks. Therefore, Descartes exists." Is this argument valid? Why? Discuss in the light of Descartes' *Meditations*. (5)